



Security Council

Distr.: General
12 November 2002
English
Original: French

**Letter dated 12 November from the Permanent Representative
of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you annexed hereto a communiqué dated 11 November 2002 from the Office of the President of the Republic, which I request you to have circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Atoki Ileka
Ambassador



Annex to the letter dated 12 November 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué from the Office of the President of the Republic

11 November 2002

In his statement dated 2 June 2000 (S/PRST/2000/20), the President of the Security Council requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to establish a Panel of Experts on the illegal exploitation of the natural resources and other forms of wealth of our country. The specific mandate of this Panel of Experts was to follow up on reports and collect information on all activities of illegal exploitation of the natural resources and other forms of wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country; and to research and analyse the links between the exploitation of the natural resources and other forms of wealth of the country and the continuation of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It is clear from this statement that the mandate of the Panel of Experts was not only to confirm reports that the natural resources and other forms of wealth of our country were being illegally exploited in violation of the sovereignty of the country, but also to establish the relevant causal link between such exploitation of the natural resources and the presence of forces of aggression and occupation in our country.

It is important, moreover, to specify that the statement of the President of the Security Council of 2 June 2000 was preceded by two letters which the Representative of our country to the United Nations addressed to the Security Council strongly denouncing the plundering of the country's resources by uninvited foreign forces.

The President of the Republic, Head of State, Head of the Government, wishes to express his satisfaction with the work done by the United Nations experts, who have stated with certainty that the conflict which is ravaging our country is being fed by a covetous desire for the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The report of the Panel of Experts also demonstrates that the presence of the forces of aggression and occupation was in no way motivated by security concerns.

Given that the final report of the Panel of Experts on the illegal exploitation of the natural resources and other forms of wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has implicated certain members of the Government and persons entrusted with a public mandate, the Head of State, in his capacity as guarantor of the higher interests of the nation and concerned to ensure the smooth functioning of the institutions of the Republic, wishes to inform the public, both national and international, of the following:

I. He has taken note of the opening by the Public Prosecutor of the Republic of a judicial inquiry in order to disprove or confirm the allegations contained in the report of the United Nations Panel;

2. Any person who may have information which could help to establish the facts and demonstrate the truth should contact the office of the Public Prosecutor of the Republic to that end;

3. The Public Prosecutor of the Republic is called upon to initiate speedily any proceedings required by his office, both within and outside the country. If need be, he should travel to New York to meet Mr. Kassem, Chairman of the United Nations Panel of Experts in order to establish the truth;

4. Taking into account, on the one hand, the principle of the presumption of innocence and the right of the persons cited in the report to be heard and to use every means to defend themselves and, on the other, the need to allow justice to be pursued in all serenity and independence, the President of the Republic has decided as from this date to suspend all the persons in question for the purposes of the inquiry, namely:

- Mr. Mwenze Kongolo, Minister of National Security and Public Order;
- Mr. Katumba Mwanke, Minister in the Office of the President of the Republic;
- Mr. Denis Kalume Numbi, Minister of the Plan and National Reconstruction;
- Mr. Mawampanga Mwana Nanga, Ambassador;
- Mr. Kazadi Nyembwe, Administrator General of the National Information Agency;
- Mr. Charles Okoto Lolakombe, former President and Director General of the Société minière de Bakwanga (MIBA).

Done at Kinshasa, 11 November 2002